I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient ostage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450,

Va. 22313-1450 on the date shown below

CERA 233 (1010) 225)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Franke, et al.

Application No.: 09/937,722

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: March 28, 2002

Examiner: D. J. Davis

MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS For:

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 111

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

JAN 2 8 2004

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2003, accompanied herewith with a three-month petition for extension of time and fee, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

1